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Column One By David Courtney

THIS year 1956 can be heard approaching. It is difficult to tell from the horoscopes of its following which, if any, of the apocalyptic steeds it will have in its stables. Those who tell their stars to the ground or their eyes scanning the dust clouds that are almost upon us, will detect good omens and become more optimistic and the usual camp followers of the New Year as it rides in to take over from the Old.

WHAT it will bring that cannot be foreseen, and what it will inherit should together make for an exciting future of office. But because each New Year as it comes is tight-lipped about its main projects, there is at least a half chance of good, even of peace, or at least a cessation of that modified form of peace which today we call co-existence.

IT is a half chance that many people of Israel and of the neighbouring countries will ponder as 1956 shifts its load to 1955 and slugs out its first year of dishonourably or without credit, to the stillness of limbo. Once or twice it had been thought that this would be a year for the Middle East: first when the year was still young, at Gaza; then in its maturity, when the Egyptians began raiding into Israel and tension spun like a whirlwind along the Gaza border to work up to the climax of Khan Yunis. And then new omens from Russia and the operation at Auja.

BUT none of it was war: not in the old contention. Perhaps just as peace has been whittled down to become co-existence, so war may have been whittled down to become merely a sporadic struggle. After all, co-existence (which is, I think, a Russian discovery), implies a denial of genuine human fellowship. It means that the best we can hope for is a more or less formal contract by which we human beings agree to live along side each other, in mutual dislike but without blowing each other up. That, of course, leaves room for Marshal Bulganin and Mr. Khrushchev to be as nasty as they like about the British and the Americans as they tour through India and Burma.

WILL it be worse, or better, in 1957? Oddly enough, about every year there is a wish that everything will be better, but the wish is not authoritative enough to ensure that it will be. And besides, it is a matter of what the Americans call "know-how," or rather several "know-how's," in which most people wish for the same thing but are broken up into groups having different ways of achieving what all wish for: until, perhaps, the day when achieving it becomes more important than the thing to be achieved.

FOR example, 1956 has in the caravan whose rumbling approach we can hear, a new French Government, a new presidential election in the United States, a new Saar Government that can become a contentious matter between France and Germany, and the important thing in these instances may not be peace and happiness for the world but peace and happiness for the French Prime Minister, who, of course, fooled 1955 by making his Ministerial changes during the last few minutes of 1955, so that the New Year may have wished to form to its own liking. At least no British election seems probable.

BUT it is the uncertainties rather than the assurances that will shape 1956; and until these are revealed there can be no profit in judgment. Over the New Year, there will be prime ministers and cabinets and soviets and chiefs of staff and party leaders and cumbersome bureaucracies and editorial cameraderies working for their own, their party's, their government's, their country's and the world's—in that order—prosperity and good; and something may come of it a little better than the curse of it in this year of grace. We have every right to hope so.

Jerusalem, December 28.

Argentine Jews Ask End To Anti-Semitic Rules

BUENOS AIRES, Tuesday (INA).—Requests for the ending of various anti-Semitic practices, long in force in Argentina, have been made in a memorandum sent to President Pedro Aramburu by D.A.I.A., the central representative body of Argentine Jewry.

The request includes permission to use Yiddish at public gatherings without the need for special police permits; lifting the ban against Jewish medical students and internships for Jews in hospitals, and lifting the ban on Jewish immigration.

HEAVY ARMS FOR NEW WEHRMACHT

BONN, Tuesday (UP).—The new West German Wehrmacht will receive its first deliveries of heavy American armament at the end of January, informed Government sources today.

They will include tanks, artillery and a few pursuit planes. The total value has not been announced, but it was reported to be about \$10m.

Storm in Knesset On Tel Aviv Strike

Jerusalem Post Knesset Reporter

In the Third Knesset's stormiest session so far, the Coalition yesterday voted down by 54 to 23 Herut and General Zionism motions for the agenda calling for a debate on the strike of Tel Aviv Municipal employees.

The motions were presented by Mr. A. Ben-Zion, head of the Herut faction, and Mr. A. Ben-Zion, head of the General Zionism faction. Ordinarily, a Minister replies to motions for the agenda on behalf of the Government, and the storm broke when the Acting Speaker, Mr. A. Ben-Zion, gave the floor to Mr. A. Ben-Zion, who wished to move that the motions be struck from the agenda.

From Herut and General Zionism benches came the cry: "Where's the Government?" "Where's the Cabinet?" "Where's the Government?" "Where's the Cabinet?" "Where's the Government?" "Where's the Cabinet?"

Mr. Ben-Zion was heckled frequently and a few minutes later, when the Minister of Interior, Mr. A. Ben-Zion, finally rose to make a statement, the speaker broke loose anew. By this time, the Speaker's patience was at an end and he took the rarely-used power of calling two members to order—Mrs. E. Raziel-Naor of his own party, and Mr. A. Govrin of Mafpek.

Both Mr. Shostak and Mr. Artzi argued that the Tel Aviv strike was not the result of a labour dispute, but was a political move to break down the administration of the municipality. It was Mafpek's way of seeking revenge for its failure to win the mayoralty, Mr. Shostak charged.

The main issue, he said, was ostensibly the demand for the recognition of the Histadrut as the sole bargaining agent of municipal employees. A denial of genuine human fellowship. It means that the best we can hope for is a more or less formal contract by which we human beings agree to live along side each other, in mutual dislike but without blowing each other up.

Mr. Becker denied that the strike was politically motivated. It was an ordinary labour dispute. Employees had the right to demand that they be represented by a single, undivided organization, just as the employer—private or public—appeared undivided.

He charged that the Herut association represented only 200-250 employees, as compared with 4,000 in the Histadrut affiliate. It received from the municipality, which was thereby furthering its own political purpose.

Mr. M. Kohn (Hapoel HaMizrabi) moved that the matter be referred to the Labour Committee. He said that while he believed in the Histadrut, only one trade union, he did not agree with Mr. Becker's explanation of the strike. (Hapoel HaMizrabi is a member of the Histadrut parties in the National Assembly.)

It was then that Mr. Bar-Yehuda made his delayed appearance. He said that the Government was willing to intervene in labour disputes, but where it is asked to mediate or arbitrate it is always willing to do so. He discussed the subject, either in the plenary or in committee.

Mr. M. Begun (Herut), a point of order, asserted that never before had two speakers been permitted to move the striking of a motion from the agenda. Mr. Bar-Yehuda gave them both an opportunity to speak. But Mr. Bar-Yehuda ruled that the procedure followed was not in conflict with the Knesset's rules.

818 Killed in U.S. During Christmas

NEW YORK, Tuesday.—More than 800 traffic deaths during the Christmas week-end set a record in the U.S. The four days showed an overall death toll of 818, including 12 in fires, four in plane crashes, and 129 in miscellaneous accidents.

The previous record traffic toll for the four-day Christmas holiday in 1953 when 556 deaths were recorded. The worst overall toll from accidents in all kinds was 805 during the three-day Independence Day celebration this year when drowning was a big factor.

Meanwhile, fresh flood crests rolling down California rivers from melting snow on the Sierra mountainside threatened the delta area and deserted Yuba City with further disaster. Eighty-two deaths in California and Oregon, in which casualties are now 41 known dead and 22 missing, had begun to show signs of slackening when the new warnings came.

Slansky Trial Under Review By Russians, Czechs

LONDON, Tuesday (OFNB).—A review of the Prague trial of November, 1952, to which Rudolf Slansky, the former Czech Communist Party Secretary, was sentenced to death as a traitor, is now being prepared by a mixed commission of Russian and Czech officials.

According to a reliable report from Prague, the commission has been working there in secret since the end of October, and an announcement is expected early in the New Year.

Slansky, not all of the accused in the Slansky trial were convicted of alleged treasonable contacts with the heretic leadership of the Communist Party, and many other leading Czech Communists were sentenced to death as traitors, is now being prepared by a mixed commission of Russian and Czech officials.

The most obvious sign of the strike was that the streets were more littered than usual. Refuse collection was also not carried out from the front. The stoppage in a number of departments will result in financial loss. Most municipal offices were deserted and hundreds of letters remained unopened. Silence reigned at the Town Hall, where only the Mayor, the Town Clerk and their personal staffs were at work.

Readiness to accept arbitration was repeated by Mr. Shechter at a press conference here today. He said that members of the Herut employees' organization had tried to undermine the strike by force were made by representatives of the Histadrut Employees Association. They declared that the strike would not be called off until its purpose had been achieved.

Mr. Levinson told the Jerusalem Post today that, late last night, he had told Mr. Shechter that he would accept Mr. Weitzman's recommendations, but did not see the necessity of meeting Mr. Shechter's request to make a signed statement. There were enough witnesses present, he added.

Khrushchev to Report On Asia to Supreme Soviet

MOSCOW, Tuesday (Reuters).—Either Mr. Nikita Khrushchev, Premier of the Soviet Union, or Marshal Nikolai Bulganin, Premier, is to speak in a foreign affairs debate tomorrow or on Thursday in the Supreme Soviet, reporting on their recent tour of Asia.

Mr. Khrushchev today attended the second day of the debate in the Council of the Union, one of the Supreme Soviet's two Chambers, on the budget to cut expenses going to permit greater development of the economy and culture. The budget was put before a joint session yesterday.

With him was ex-Premier Georgi Malenkov whose Electric Power Stations Ministry was slated yesterday to have achieved its 1955 target with six days to spare, having opened 13 big power stations. Both Chambers have submitted amendments to the draft budget designed to increase both revenue and expenditure. Some speakers in the debate have criticized ministries, departments and industrial establishments.

During today's Council of the Union debate, deputies from various parts of the Soviet Union reported a growth of the oil industry in the Tartar Republic, an expanded housebuilding programme in Moscow and progress towards a bid to expand Soviet oil output by 85 per cent over 1950.

The Communist Party newspaper, "Pravda," today pointed to failures in some sections of Soviet industry in its comment on yesterday's budget speech by Finance Minister, Mr. A. G. Zverev.

It deplored "the fact that many enterprises, in particular timber, fishing, coal and coloured metal, are often working unsatisfactorily and do not fulfil production schedules."

That reported today that President Voroshilov has invested Mr. Anastas Mikoyan, First Deputy Premier, with the Order of Lenin to mark his 60th birthday and "in recognition of his services to the Communist Party and the Soviet people."

Cyprus Government Official Murdered

NICOSIA, Tuesday (Reuters).—A Cypriot Government official was shot dead outside his home in a village near here today in an apparent recent act of terrorism.

Police found Justus Nicolaou, a Government official, dead from a bullet wound in his chest. He had been shot in the back of the head by a bullet which had entered his back and exited through his chest. The bullet was found near his body. The official was shot in the back of the head by a bullet which had entered his back and exited through his chest.

Egyptians Fire on Patrol, Invade Israel Air Space

An Egyptian position opened fire with automatic weapons yesterday on an Israeli patrol in the Elia Hashlosha area, the army spokesman has announced. The patrol returned the fire and some of our soldiers was hit.

An Egyptian jet plane flew over Israel territory in the same area at noon yesterday, the spokesman added. About two hours later, two other Egyptian jets crossed the Israel border and flew over the Nitzana Demilitarized Zone.

Mendes: West Blundered With Baghdad Pact

PARIS, Tuesday.—While the supply of Soviet arms to Egypt has aggravated Middle East tension, this move was only in response to the "blunder" of the West, Mr. Mendes-France said in the daily "L'Express."

In a signed editorial, he singled out strong criticism of the brief reference to the Middle East contained in the final communiqué issued after the recent NATO Council meeting, which spoke of the "recent provocative Soviet initiative and declarations in the Middle East and Asia" as "a new challenge to the free world."

It is true, Mr. Mendes-France pointed out, that there is a sort of challenge to the West by the military sector, as the NATO communiqué would imply. "The Soviets are launching a 'massive campaign' in the sphere of economic competition. To simply reply by announcing increased Western armaments would be to turn our backs to reality and to invite severe setbacks," he said, adding that a major shift is needed by the West in the economic and social fields.

Sudan Council Ready To Take Over

The five-member Sudan Council will take over the duties of the Government of Sudan under Khair al-Din, on January 1. The Governor, now in London, will not return to the Sudan.

The new tricolour flag of the Sudan has been completed. It will have blue stripes representing the Nile, white stripes for the White Nile, and green stripes for agriculture.

PAUKER CONDEMNED BY PARTY CHIEF

Mr. Anna Pauker, the former Rumanian Foreign Minister, was violently attacked in a speech by Mr. George Gheorghe Dej, Secretary-General of the Rumanian Communist Party, at a party congress in Bucharest on Monday night according to a report in "Kaiary" yesterday.

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3 French Leaders Fight Election On War in Algeria, Europe

PARIS, Tuesday (Reuters).—The election campaign in which nearly 4,000 candidates are competing for less than 600 seats in the National Assembly is ending this week in a whirlwind campaign of promises and threats about Algeria and the Atlantic Alliance.

War or peace in Africa and in Europe was felt by France's top politicians as the election issue that lies closest to the hearts of 36 million voters.

The Communist Party newspaper, "Pravda," today pointed to failures in some sections of Soviet industry in its comment on yesterday's budget speech by Finance Minister, Mr. A. G. Zverev.

It deplored "the fact that many enterprises, in particular timber, fishing, coal and coloured metal, are often working unsatisfactorily and do not fulfil production schedules."

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Israel Calls for Direct Talks With Cairo Under Armistice

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Israel yesterday revealed her intentions of calling a conference with Egypt to promote peace between the two countries. Two conditions for the conference are establishment of an effective cease-fire and the faithful implementation by Egypt of the General Armistice Agreement.

The conference is to be called under Article XII of the Armistice Agreement which provides that either party may ask the U.N. Secretary-General to convene a meeting. Participation is obligatory.

Israel's intentions were made known to Major-General E. L. M. Burns, Chief of Staff of the Truce Supervision Organization, by Prime Minister Ben-Gurion at a meeting in the latter's office on December 5.

Israel has also placed on record the fact that Egypt has in effect, rejected the U.N. proposals for the Nitzana Demilitarized Zone, failed to agree to a cease-fire on the Israel frontier, and to undertake to comply fully with the Armistice Agreement.

These plans and views were made known at a press conference held yesterday in Jerusalem by the Foreign Ministry spokesman, who also gave a detailed account of the negotiations conducted for the past several weeks by Ben-Gurion in connection with the proposals put forward by Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld, U.N. Secretary-General, for restoring peace in the Nitzana Demilitarized Zone.

Because of constant attacks by Egyptian forces on Jordan, and from the Gaza Strip, Mr. Ben-Gurion stressed to General Burns at the December 5 meeting the importance of surrounding Israel, while they were, in effect, rejected by Egypt.

Israel's Position
He defined Israel's position as follows: "Israel desired to secure a complete cease-fire such as would bring about a cessation of Egyptian attacks along the Israel-Egypt frontier, as well as attacks organized by Egypt against Israel's other borders."

"It was the firm desire of Israel to see the General Armistice Agreement implemented in its entirety by both sides. In this connection, the Prime Minister had drawn the U.N. Chief of Staff's attention to certain principal provisions of the Agreement which Egypt had so far failed to comply with."

"Article I which established the promotion of permanent peace as the basic aim of the Armistice; Article II(2) which forbade any warlike or hostile act by any party against the other; Article III which established the inviolability of the Demarcation Line and the international frontier separating Israel and Egypt; Article IV which prohibited incursions by civilians from the territory of one party into the territory of the other; and Article VIII(2) according to which the Nitzana Demilitarized Zone was to be free of Egyptian military positions on the Egyptian side of the frontier, factor."

Better Prospects Seen For Israel in 1956

UNITED NATIONS, Tuesday (INA).—The prediction that no Arab-Israeli war is likely in the near future, and that Israel's prospects for friendly consideration by the West will be better in 1956 than ever before, was made here today by a number of diplomatic observers despite the fact that Syria demands Israel's expulsion from the U.N.

Israel will probably draw Security Council censure for her reprisal attack on Syrian outposts along Lake Kinneret, but Syria's call for expulsion and economic sanctions will not find the echo in the Council which the Arab bloc anticipates. This is especially so since the composition of the Council changes on January 1, with Yugoslavia taking Turkey's place, Cuba replacing Brazil, and Australia taking over New Zealand's place.

Tito in Egypt

Marshal Tito will soon be in Egypt and it is likely that he will try to induce Egyptian leaders to talk peace with Israel. It is, therefore, assumed in U.N. circles that Syria's call for expulsion and economic sanctions will not find the echo in the Council which the Arab bloc anticipates. This is especially so since the composition of the Council changes on January 1, with Yugoslavia taking Turkey's place, Cuba replacing Brazil, and Australia taking over New Zealand's place.

Jewish Minister

In Rabat, the first Moroccan Premier, Si Mubarak el Bekkal, today filled the only vacant post in his Cabinet formed three weeks ago by Mohammed V. Benakken of Casablanca as Minister of Posts and Telegraphs.

The appointment of Dr. Benakken anticipates the fact that he has been reserved for a Moroccan Jew under an all-party agreement. But Moroccan Jewish organizations had been unable to agree on a candidate.

Dr. Benakken, head physician of OSE in Morocco, is an authority on lung cancer.

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MR. Becker's latest proposal for solving the inter-party impasse over wage increases has been received with a wide measure of assent and will be the pivotal point in today's decisive meeting of the factions making up the Histadrut. It has an original approach in addition to its several merits. The proposal follows the line of that made by Mr. Becker two years ago, which was to raise the basic sum on which c.o.l. allowances are payable from IL80 to IL125, although only a part of the increase was payable on the higher rates.

WAGE PLAN

It is now proposed that full IL170 basic, or even higher. These proposals increase the advantages that increases can be paid while the faces of those who insist upon stability of money incomes will be saved somewhat, for basic wages will not be affected. The increase would dwindle in the event of deflation, and employees getting less than basic IL80 get no pay increase.

The amount of additional purchasing power to be injected into our economy by the wage increase will be reduced to some five per cent of the total wage bill, according to Mr. Becker's estimate, instead of the 10 per cent claimed before and the 15 to 20 per cent demanded by the leftist parties. (However, even this five per cent, will amount to over IL50m. a year). At the same time the differentiation between wages paid to lower-paid and higher-paid employees will increase, i.e. to some extent revert to the original pre-inflation pattern. Thus the stint will be taken out of the technicians' and workers' and First Division civil servants' contention that the present wage system discriminates severely against them and that their standard of living has progressively worsened relative to that of the lower-graded employees. On the other hand they will be contented themselves with a considerably smaller pay rise than had been promised in recent agreements while renouncing their claim to an outright increase of their basic wages. The final element of this universal compromise holds out for the lower-paid workers a consolation prize in the form of some reduction in income tax. (The Treasury is to get nothing from the pay increase for the higher brackets because this is to be in the form of a tax-exempt c.o.l. allowance which goes a fair way towards accounting for the difference between the rise proposed by Mr. Becker and the Guri proposals.)

It is quite evident that, at the present stage of our economy, this ingenious scheme—or a variation of it—is much to be preferred to the other wage-busting plans, although like most compromises it will leave many unsatisfied without solving the basic problems. Its main shortcoming is that instead of reducing the income-busting effect of the c.o.l. allowances, Mr. Becker's proposal tends to increase it, at least for the higher wage-brackets. In fact it will render wages in this country inflation-proof to such a degree that any existing remnant of determination to fight inflation on the part of wage-earners will be dissipated. Moreover it is very doubtful whether the white-collar unions will be ready to forego the advantages they have won in a hard fight in order to see maintained the principle of equal wages to which they are opposed. A further insistence on this point may seriously weaken the Histadrut's position.

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YEAR OF DECISIONS
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Pro-Germans Minority Among People of Saar

By SEBASTIAN HAFNER

BERLIN, (OFNS)—

THE result of last week's Saar elections is extraordinarily illuminating. In particular, it solves the apparent mystery why the Saar population should apparently so completely have changed its mind between the elections of November, 1952, and the referendum of October, 1955. On the first occasion, the autonomous Saar parties—Christian People's Party and Social Democratic Party, Saar—which were then both in the field, polled a German propaganda drive to "vote white"—i.e. to leave the polling papers blank—produced a "white" vote of 25.5 per cent. At the referendum of last October, as will still be remembered, only 33 per cent of the vote was cast for the European Statute, which would have bestowed the autonomy of the Saar, and 67 per cent against it.

Now that new Saar elections have been held with all the German and autonomist parties freely competing it suddenly has been clear that there has never been any great change. The 25.5 per cent "white" vote of 1951, which represents the hard core of the autonomist and nationalist opposition to Saar autonomy, is almost exactly the same as the 24.2 per cent now polled by the nationalist Democratic Party, Saar.

One is probably right in supposing that the people who vote "white" three years ago are by and large, identical with the D.P.S. voters of last week. For the rest, the bulk of the "German" vote is divided between the German Christian Democrats and the Social Democrats—parties which in their internal political aims and ideologies are indistinguishable from their autonomist counterparts. The Christian People's Party and the Social Democratic Party, Saar. Their electors are apparently people who, when provided with a choice between a German and an autonomist version of their type of party, prefer the German one, but if no such choice is offered, as in 1952, are quite prepared to put up with the autonomist one.

It is now fairly clear that of the electorate roughly one-third is and remains strongly autonomist. Roughly one-quarter is and always was strongly German nationalist; these are the people who even in a situation of apparent hopelessness for their cause, stuck to it—the pro-Germans voting "white" in 1952, the autonomists by re-electing their parties last Sunday despite their heavy defeat at the referendum.

In between these lies some 40 per cent of votes of whom all that can be said is that they are against the European Statute. That means that they do not want a complete and permanent separation from Germany. It does not necessarily mean that they want an unconditional and total reintegration into West Germany. Their vote in 1952 speaks against this assumption. They were in any case at that time quite prepared to cooperate in the government of an autonomous Saar. Their ideal

Ancient Negev Culture on Show

THE Wilfred Israel Museum at Kibbutz Hazorea is exhibiting "Negev Man on the Threshold of History" consisting of finds from Jean Perrot's excavations at Tel Abu Matar near Beersheba. The objects are arranged to create a picture of the daily life of this Chalcolithic village that existed for 100 to 150 years, somewhere about 3,500 B.C.E., first in underground huts, then in a semi-subterranean village, and finally in a large model at the far end of the hall illustrates the development.

The main source of livelihood was agriculture, and in the covered silos lentils, barley and four varieties of corn have been found. The people kept cattle, sheep and goats. The dog had already been domesticated. They were potters, both in fired and unfired clay, who made pots, jugs, slugs, churns for the manufacture of butter etc. Bone was fashioned into sickles for cutting the crops and awls for sewing leather. Flint was still important. They had, however, already discovered the use of copper, and casting sites have been found. Copper axe heads are among the objects on view. When metal axes were still employed, for example basalt and alabaster, and hard limestone could be hollowed out—a mortar actually contains the instrument employed.

This Beersheba culture has been related by M. Perrot to the Ghassulian culture first revealed by the Jesuit Father at Ghassul (not far from Jericho) about 25 years ago. What manner of people were the first inhabitants? Only a few adult skeletons in very bad state of preservation have been discovered. A bone of a child, a face with a prominent nose, a beard and a long neck; the same prominent nose appears in a bone statuette of female bust. Religion? Sets of three basalt basins, placed one within the other, the lowest being fitted with legs, may have a ritual significance. The presence of skeletons of children, laid beneath what seems to have been a fire or a fireplace, may mean infant sacrifices. There are smooth pebbles marked with red ochre signs (which often suggest birds) and placed in groups on the house floors. Their designs and arrangement possess a certain symmetry.

Art? Nothing to compare with the murals of Ghassul but still the culture had an art of its own. The same red colour is painted in simple designs round their pottery. The female bust has heavily articulated eyes, nose and breasts but cannot be compared for beauty of expressive line with a tiny bronze pin head in the shape of a pelican. These two objects suggest a sophisticated

In view of the complex economic situation in the Saar, may well be a status, if it could be devised, in which they would be politically linked with Germany and economically with France. Whether such a status can be worked out will be precisely the question to be dealt with in the new French West German negotiations which these negotiations are to be conducted, however, have been somewhat changed through the election results. Before last Sunday, the German took the French and the French were more or less ready to concede, that the overwhelming majority of the population was dead set on complete reunion with Germany, and that the German took the French to speak for the Saar after last Sunday's election results. It now seems clear that the convinced autonomists, a minority, and that between them lies a large bloc of opinion whose allegiance is not to Germany but to the Saar, although it rejected the European Statute, may genuinely favour a French-West German compromise which would save it from a bitter choice.

All Could Be Well at Kerem Ben Zimra

By YESHAYAHU ASHKE

GET yourself a map of Upper Galilee, and taking up a position at Safad, project a line eight kilometres north-northwest. Then move to Gush Halav and project another line three kilometres north-northwest, and the intersection of the two will give you a high point known as Kerem Ben Zimra, named after the tomb of the Talmudic sage.

The spiritual leader and moving spirit of this Zionist settlement is its 31-year-old young Rabbi, Meir Gotsz, who arrived at the end of 1951 and ever since has been absorbed but part have rebelled against village life and are demanding transfer. The "veteran" settlers are outraged at the way they treat their wives and even infants to demonstrate at the Jewish Agency offices in Safad demanding a reconfirmation of their status as Jewish immigrants so that they can obtain a new issue of equipment.

Each unit at Kerem Ben Zimra consists of four families of olive and fig, to which will be added. The old vineyard is again being worked; a new one and an apple orchard are being planted. Every settler has a chicken run with 50 pullets, to which many have added turkeys and geese. Each has 15 to 20 sheep. The village herd consists of 40 milch cows, acquired through its own efforts.

On completing the preparatory work, the settlers will begin to lay out vegetable gardens on five dunams per unit, and then will be ready to go over to full production. Winter crops, to be cultivated with dry animals and tractors borrowed from the Safad base, have already been sown. Seeds, fertilizer and labour are at the settlers' expense. Kerem Ben Zimra's yield is 12,000 per family over the past season. Moreover, the settlers are engaged in this occupation: the fruit tastes like honey and old wine, and I must admit that the new settlers Kerem Ben Zimra sign does not know what good fire are. Each family also realizes a

ated culture. More primitive are the elementary geometric designs on bone handles, a sheep in baked earth and a hippopotamus head. Jewellery is represented by flat plaques, necklaces and sea shells. Whence did these folk come? If you glance at the map of the Ghassulian site uncovered to date, you will remark that they are plentiful in the neighbourhood of Beersheba, becoming sparser as one proceeds northwards where they produce a rather different culture. If this general schema does not change appreciably after future excavations, then these prehistoric residents of the Negev may have been brought from the south East. Whether or not they originated in Egypt, they certainly had connections with the Ghassulian culture, which occurs rarely in this Palestine, and the Red Sea shells point to that direction. The idea is common in Pre-Dynastic Egyptian art.

Allowing for the necessarily doubtful interpretation of the purpose of some objects, the Hazorea display, supplemented as it is, by large photographs and explanatory captions, is of absorbing interest in the light thrown on a Negev community not long before the Middle East surged up to become a founder of civilization.

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YESTERDAY'S STRIKE IS POLITICAL

ALMOST all papers dealing with the Tel Aviv Municipal workers' strike feel that it is totally political in nature.

"Haravets" (non-party) points out that the Opposition in the Tel Aviv Municipal Council is almost as strong as the Coalition and as such has a good chance of getting what it wants without resorting to the strike weapon, with which it is apparently trying to amend the election results. This is borne out by the Tel Aviv Labour Council's turning down of mediation proposals.

The Histadrut has again proved, writes "Haravets," that even "in the gateway to hell" its leaders are not prepared to repeat. As far as the workers are concerned the interests of Histadrut policy are over and above those of the State. (World Agency) writes that the Histadrut's rejection of all proposals to compose differences proves that the Opposition in the Tel Aviv Municipal Council is not so much impatient of the prospects of the Coalition's disintegration and has unfortunately decided to strike in order to hasten the process.

Saving vs. Consuming
"Haboker" (General Zionist) observes that the tendency to save has been as strong as the

tendency to consume but could not be felt until ways of saving that commended themselves to the public's confidence could be proposed. The moment they were discovered, it was found that the readiness to save far outstripped the possibilities, but the potential saver must be assured that he will not be penalized for putting aside some through higher income tax assessments or the imposition of sudden compulsory loans. A suitable law guaranteeing the rights of the saver against loss in value or deprivation gives much encouragement.

"Devar" (Histadrut) believes that Mr. Becker's wage proposal is a good basis for discussion because it is flexible, and while it does not square with the Government's wishes for an absolute wage freeze, it is bound to end the local considerably. "Lamischer" (Abdullah Ha'avodah) writes that the new Government must renew our ties with the people of Arab who were once a natural coexistence between all nations of the world. We must be encouraged by the lack of interest shown by Nuri and U Nu in a proposed second "Bandung" conference at Cairo. These two honest leaders have been disillusioned by Nasser's hypocrisy and deceit.

REVOLT IN NEO-DESTOUR

Salah Ben Youssef Organizing Extremists with Cairo Support

By HAL LEHRMAN

TUNIS—

IT used to be said that the danger in Tunisia, as elsewhere in North Africa, was that, sooner or later, the moderate, French-educated nationalists would be challenged by Arab-centred extremists. Well, it's sooner. Returning from three years in Cairo exile, Salah Ben Youssef has exclusively unfurled the banner of Orthodoxy, traditionalism, Arab Leagueism and "Down with France!" Ben Youssef is no minor figure. He holds the title of Party Secretary-General and the official Party application of "Grand Mufti" (Bourguiba rates officially as the "Supreme Leader"). He had pleaded at the French bar, and made good money at it. He wears Western clothes, speaks impeccable French, and has a chic wife who would no more wear a veil on her face than a pall on her head. But he is a public meeting with readings from the Koran. He delivered his first defiant speech after his homecoming from the French Ministry of the Interior. When the Political Bureau an-

pelled him as Secretary for committing it without authorization to support of Algeria at the United Nations, he expelled the Political Bureau from the Party and cried: "The Bureau is for the French Union and the Occident. I am for the Arabs and the Orient!" Ben Youssef (a commoner and no relation to the Moroccan Sultan of the same name) is labelled an adventurer by his enemies. It is charged that, during a spell as minister of Justice in a pre-showdown Tunisian government, he "earned" a fortune. As he rightly said when I broached this: "Then why don't they prove it?" He is also accused of being ambitious. "The day I came home," he told me, "Bourguiba offered me the Prime Ministry." (Later I got this in Bourguiba, who did not deny it.) "If I were just ambitious, what more could I want than the Prime Ministry?" asked Ben Youssef. "But the price was that I should swallow the French sell-out agreement. When I refused, he said: 'If I were just ambitious, what more could I want than the Prime Ministry?'"

The "Grand Leader's" chief talking point is that the Conventions negotiated mainly by Mongi Slim under Bourguiba's direction, solemnize a permanent Tunisian subservience to France, especially by yielding defence and foreign affairs "forever." Therefore, the Conventions betray everything for which Tunisians fought and died. The argument is debatable. "No treaty is eternal," a highly placed Frenchman commented to me. "Ten or twenty years from now, there will be a French commonwealth of free nations, or all of North Africa will have split away from us entirely." In her present financial condition, Tunisia could not support one platoon and one legion, let alone an army and a foreign service. If she now has a public works programme in operation to employ some of her jobless, it is with a French grant.

The dispute really goes much deeper. Behind Ben Youssef hovers the spirit of Bandouga, of Afro-Arab, of the Oriental East, of Islam. Until further proof, he is entitled to be regarded as sincere in maintaining that this is the better way for his country. It is clearly not so for a free world which seeks North Africa cooperation. Many Tunisi-

ans, too, feel that it is not even a better way for Tunisia, which, they contend, can become a healthy, progressive society only by keeping her face westward. But how many Tunisians? Ben Youssef is harnessing all the resentments in the people, organizing all the diverse elements of opposition and discontent under the subterfuge of Allah, Home and Country. Nobody can demonstrate that he is receiving more than moral support from Cairo. But he has money of his own. Just the funds of those who fear the Bourguiba credo, and especially those who fear the growth of Islam, fearing he could not beat the Neo-Destour machine. He is making plans for a Neo-Destour "Congress" of his own only next year.

Ben Youssef may end by winning enough support to make the Party command for himself, or by being compelled either to hide his time or create a second party. A two-party system has never by itself meant calamity. The question is whether an untamed Tunisia can survive the hunger, disease and ignorance in the arena and knives and pistols are the persuaders.

Anyone who has attended a Tunisian rally lately, on either side, will have observed the ecstasy on the faces, the frenzy in the eyes. Already heads have been bowed and hands raised in speech given by gangs in both camps who such a short time ago were blood brothers against the French. At this moment, it would be rash to predict whether Tunisia will become a state ruled by ballot or another one of those dreary countries where machine guns and cliques make seasonal coups d'etat. But it does seem regrettably likely that the Government, in self-defence, will increasingly have to shape policies to please the marketplace rather than serve the national interest. Appended, without comment, are the words of a member of the Cabinet spoken in a mood of deep depression. Said he: "I give it four months. If by then we have not succeeded in creating a strong nucleus resting on authority voted by the people, the experiment of Tunisian democracy will have failed..."

This is the text of four articles on Tunisia. The first appeared on Tuesday (a Sunday) on December 25, 26 and 27.

Readers' Letters

NEW TIME-TABLE

Editor, The Jerusalem Post
Sir, I have the impression that the new railway time-table means a considerable disadvantage for Haifa instead of the intended improvement. Formerly those passengers who could not take the 6:30 a.m. train to Tel Aviv could take the 7:40 and still have the morning hours to attend to their affairs in Tel Aviv. According to the new time-table, the second train leaves Haifa only at 8:40 a.m.

On the way back, in the afternoon, the same inconvenience arises because there is now no train communication between the two cities from 18:15 to 18:45. It is difficult, with the loss of the hour in the morning, to catch the 18:15 for the return journey, and the 18:45 arrives in Haifa too late to leave the traveller a free evening.

DR. H. YOURS, etc.
Haifa, November 23.

Railway Reply
In fixing the new time-table, we had to take into consideration the fact that we must run

nine trains daily to and from Haifa and Tel Aviv as compared with the former seven, and this in the absence of an automatic signalling system and with a single track, which necessitates strict coordination at bypasses. We are constantly concerned with additions and improvements in the train service and we hope that with the installation of the new signalling system and the addition of rolling stock, in the near future, we will be able to run trains more frequently, to the satisfaction of your correspondent.

Yours etc.,

H. AHARONOWITZ
In Charge of Public Relations
Haifa, December 9.

PEN FRIENDS
THE UNITED NATIONS YOUTH CLUB of Great Neck High School, Great Neck, New York, U.S.A., has a committee which wishes to secure pen pals for the students. They are interested in students between the ages of 14 and 17, individually or in school groups.

NETTE ASH, H. of 1 Linden Grove, Fallowfield, Manchester 14, England, wishes to pen friends who are interested in ballet, drama, reading, etc.

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Helen Keller's Home Corner

Follow this Example

A warm gesture expressing sympathy and understanding for those who live in a world of silence, was given by these young friends who, on their Bar Mitzva day, donated the sum of IL7- each to the Helen Keller Home.

In appreciation each boy was given a copy of Helen Keller's book and the sincere thanks of our organization.

The names of the young donors are:

GIORA WERTHEIM
EITAN MINTLER
ILAN ZAHNER
ZVI SCHWARTZMAN
URI KAWER
ITZHAK PERLSTEIN
all of Nakana.

We appeal to children and youth to remember those who cannot hear nor speak on their day of rejoicing. Your donation will help build the Helen Keller Home, a cultural and social centre for deaf-mutes in Israel.